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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,373	07/07/2003	Atsushi Kato	075834.00411	7415
33448	7590	09/02/2008	EXAMINER	
ROBERT J. DEPKE			BERNATZ, KEVIN M	
LEWIS T. STEADMAN				
ROCKEY, DEPKE & LYONS, LLC			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 5450 SEARS TOWER				
CHICAGO, IL 60606-6306			1794	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/02/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/614,373	KATO, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin M. Bernatz	1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1 and 11 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. (JP 2002-025035 A) in view of Murayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,972,515) and Kato (U.S. Patent No. 6,114,057), and as evidenced by Applicants' admissions and Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,458,979) for the reasons of record as set forth in Paragraph No. 4 of the Office Action mailed on November 27, 2007. See provided English language translation of JP '035 A.

Response to Arguments

3. **The rejection of claims 1 and 11 - 20 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) – Kato et al. in view of various references**

Applicant(s) argue(s) that “the Examiner has yet to explain where ... “a second one of the polyurethane resins being a polyurethane resin having a urethane group concentration of 3.0 mmol/g or above” (emphasis added)” (page 6 of response). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

First, the Examiner notes that the rejection of record clearly addresses this limitation on page 3 of the Office Action mailed on November 27, 2007 (“...a second one of the polyurethane resins being a polyurethane resin having a urethane concentration of 3.0 mmol/g or above (*Paragraphs 0021, 0022, 0027 and 0028*)”). Turning to Paragraphs 0021, 0022, 0027 and 0028 of Kato et al. (English language translation), especially Paragraph 0027, Kato et al. recites: “The polyurethane resin, which is used as a binder in the magnetic layer, ... with a concentration of urethane group in the polyurethane resin at 3 mmol/g or higher”.

Applicants further argue that “the Examiner has yet to explain where ... “said aromatic polyester polyurethane resin has an OH value of 10 to 500 KOH mg/g” (*emphasis added*)” (*page 6 of response*). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

First, the Examiner again turns to page 3 of the above noted office action, where it is explicitly stated that Murayama et al. “teach a binder comprising a first aromatic polyester polyurethane resin ... used in combination with a second polyurethane resin”, as well as the requisite motivation for choosing to use this combination of resins over a polyurethane and vinyl based resin (*top of page 4 of prior noted Office action*). The Examiner then clearly admits on the record that “[n]one of the above disclose the specifics of the aromatic polyester polyurethane” (*second to last Paragraph of Page 4 of prior noted Office Action*). The Examiner then relies upon Kato ('057) for “an aromatic polyester polyurethane resin ... meeting Applicants’ claimed KOH limitations (*col. 4, lines 8 – 23*) ...” (*Page 4 of prior noted Office Action*). Turning to col. 4, lines 8 – 23 of

Kato ('057), we note that Kato ('057) states "the hydroxyl value of a polyester is preferably 10 to 500 KOH mg/g, more preferably 50 to 300 KOH mg/g".

Regarding Applicants' allegations of unexpected results/"critical limitations" (*pages 7 – 8 of response*), Applicant(s) are reminded that ***a detailed description of the reasons and evidence*** supporting a position of unexpected results must be provided ***by applicant(s)***. A mere pointing to data requiring the examiner to ferret out evidence of unexpected results ***is not sufficient*** to prove that the results would be truly unexpected to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re D'Ancicco*, 439 F.2d 1244, 1248, 169 USPQ 303, 306 (1971) and *In re Merck & Co*, 800 F.2d 1091, 1099, 231 USPQ 375, 381 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In addition, the Examiner deems that the alleged *unexpected* results appear to be taught in the prior art, rendering the results *expected*, not *unexpected*.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kevin M. Bernatz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1505. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin M. Bernatz, PhD/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

August 27, 2008